



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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April 13, 2005

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Background and Summary:

From January 10, the first day of session, to April 4, the final day for fiscal committees to report out bills in the opposite house, the State Board of Health staff tracked six dozen bills and reviewed dozens more to see if they should be tracked. Seven bills on which the Board has been actively involved survived the April 4 cutoff (April 15 is the last day to consider bills in the opposite house). Those seven bills are:

Bill	Title	Status on April 5th	Original Sponsor	Committee Sponsor
E2SHB 1458	On-site sewage/marine areas	S2nd Reading	Hunt	APP
ESHB 1494	Health care for school children	SRules 2	Morrell	HC
SHB 1591	Assisted care facilities	SRules 2	Schual-Berke	HC
HB 1771	School breakfast programs	SRules 2	McDermott	
SHB 1951	Vision exams for children	S2nd Reading	Quall	ED
HCR 4410	Public health financing committee	HRules R	Schual-Berke	
ESSB 5186	Physical activity	H2nd Reading	Franklin	HEA

All legislative activities were consistent with SBOH Policy 2001-001 as revised by the Board at its January meeting. Activity was tracked on the Board's Bill Watch Web page, which can be found at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/Billwatch/2003/billwatch.htm.

The discussion section of this memo briefly addresses the status of the bills listed above. I will also review the status of budget deliberations at today's meeting.

This agenda item will provide an opportunity for Board members to ask questions, and if necessary, discuss issues related to the Board's process, revisit and clarify Board positions, and provide direction to staff about activities during the remainder of session.

Recommended Board Action:

None.

Discussion

- **Onsite sewage/marine areas:** The original legislation would have required local health jurisdictions to establish operation and maintenance (O&M) permitting programs in marine areas of special concern. The surviving version of the bill—Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1458—would institute planning requirements similar to those for marine counties in the draft rules, but more rigorous and specific to “marine recovery areas” in counties bordering Puget Sound. The bill is supported by the Governor, but is not clear as of this writing whether it could pass a Senate floor vote.
- **Health care for school children:** The Board supported the concept of House Bill 1494, which would have address several issues related to school health, such as school nurse ratios and the ability of students to carry and self-administer asthma medications. The current version, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1494 as amended, establishes a workgroup to study school nursing services in Class I school districts.
- **Adult family homes:** The Board supported the concept of House Bill 1545 and Senate Bill 5650, which would have exempted adult family home workers from food worker card requirements if they obtained training from the Department of Social and Health Services that met the Board’s requirements. Both bills are dead but language from these bills has been amended into Substitute House Bill 1591.
- **School breakfast program:** House Bill 1771 would require school districts to offer free or reduced breakfast programs if 40 percent or more of the students were eligible for free or reduced school lunches. The survival of this bill is in doubt because it was amended to read “to the extent funds are appropriated for the purpose” and had not been sent to the Senate Ways & Means Committee before the cutoff for fiscal committees in the opposite house.
- **Vision exams for children:** The Board has not taken a position on House Bill 1951 but staff has worked on amendatory language. This bill would have required comprehensive screening of children before they were placed in special education programs. As recently amended, it would require the Department of Health to study whether the Board’s visual and auditory screening rules should be changed to require more extensive screening, particularly for children who exhibit learning difficulties.
- **Public health financing:** The Board supported House Bill 1737, which would have set up a committee on public health financing that would include key legislators and others. The bill is dead but a House concurrent resolution that would do the same thing, HCR 4410, has been introduced and is still alive.

- **Physical activity:** The Board has supported the concept of Senate Bill 5186, which would require planners to consider ways to promote physical activity. The current version in the House, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5186, has been watered down but is still alive.

Attachments